

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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## **Tree Removal Planned Along Sargent Road, 91<sup>st</sup> Street**

*Traffic will be restricted as necessary as work progresses*

INDIANAPOLIS –The Indianapolis Department of Public Works (DPW) today announced that tree removal along Sargent Road, between 96 Street and Fall Creek Road, and along 91<sup>st</sup> Street, from Allisonville Road to Masters Road, will begin Monday, February 25, 2013. DPW expects all project work to be complete by May 19, 2013.

While the work will not require any overnight road closures, commuters should expect traffic in work areas to be restricted and managed by signage and/or flaggers until the tree removal project is complete. To protect motorists and forestry workers alike, roadways will be closed to through traffic at specific daily jobsites and re-open at the end of each work day. DPW will also utilize the crews and equipment to perform forestry work at nearby Sahm Park.

Approximately 480 ash trees along Sargent Road and 25 ash trees along 91<sup>st</sup> Street have been terminally affected by Emerald Ash Borer infestation (EAB). The Emerald Ash Borer is a non-native beetle whose larvae feed on the inner bark of ash trees, dramatically affecting the health of the trees they infest.

“DPW is addressing the areas hardest hit by EAB with this project,” Director of Public Works Lori Miser said. “Taking action is the responsible thing to do and may prevent more serious problems in the future.”

Not much is known about how EAB affects the wood strength of ash trees; therefore, it is difficult to determine to what extent trees have been weakened by infestation. For more information on EAB and how citizens can help identify and protect ash trees, click [here](#).